

Appl. No. 10/797,697
Response to Office Action mailed March 10, 2006

Atty Dkt. No. 114208-021

REMARKS

The Office Action was issued on pending claims 1-9. Claims 1-9 stand rejected. In this response, claim 1 has been amended, claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled and no claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-4 and 7-9 are pending in the application.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call Applicants' Representative to discuss any issues with this application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103(a)

At pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 988659 in view of Schwendt (US 3,922,761). Applicants respectfully disagree and request withdrawal of the rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to include features from claim 5 and to include claim 6. Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled. Amended claim 1 calls for "an inclination angle of the rib on the base portion placed at the sewing position is indicated by $\tan\theta = H/(W/2)$ and the inclination angle θ is in a range of 55° to 70° ." One example of the claimed rib inclination angle is shown with reference to Figs. 4 and 5, and described in the specification at page 11, line 25- page 12, line 17.

GB '659 and Schwendt simply do not show, describe or suggest a rib inclination angle θ in the range of 55° to 70° . Indeed, the Office Action does not allege GB '659 or Schwendt have a rib inclination angle of 55° to 70° .

The Office Action at page 3 argues the ranges of claims 3-6 (note, the inclination angle θ of claim 6 has been added to claim 1) are modifications of the teachings of GB '659 by obvious scaling of the fundamental reinforcing ribs taught by GB '659. Applicants respectfully disagree. Although GB '659 shows ribs 3 and 4, nowhere does GB '659 discuss an inclination angle of the ribs 3 and 4. GB '659 even shows examples of ribs 3 and 4 which have a perpendicular rib inclination angle in Figs. 4 and 8. Furthermore, GB '659 does not even mention the problem addressed by Applicants' rib inclination angle of the contact by a sewing needle with the rib which can damage the needle and the rib. The GB '659 ribs 3, 4 in Figs. 3, 4, 7 and 8 all have flat tops which is yet another indication that GB '659 is not concerned with the inclination angles of the ribs 3,4. The GB '659 flat top ribs 3, 4 of Figs. 3, 4, 7 and 8 certainly do not address the problem of needle impact with the ribs. The Other GB '659 ribs also do not address needle and

Appl. No. 10/797,697
Response to Office Action mailed March 10, 2006

Atty Dkt. No. 114208-021

rib impact because the ribs do not have Applicants' claimed inclination angle.

Applicants' claimed rib inclination angle of 55° to 70° provides significant advantages and is thus, not a modification of GB '659 by obvious scaling of the ribs. Applicants' rib having the inclination angle of 55° to 70° is capable of shifting the front tip of a sewing needle 41 to a slope 22 of the rib 13 easily even if the sewing needle 41 makes contact with the rib 13 when a sewing line is formed with the sewing machine, thereby preventing the rib 13 from being damaged. See the specification at page 11, line 25 - page 12, line 15. Furthermore, Applicants' ribs having the 55° to 70° inclination angle can shift the sewing needle away effectively by the slope of the rib inclined at such a specific angle of 55° to 70° when the ribs located at the sewing position in the reinforcement portion is sewed, so that they can be sewed effectively. See the specification at page 23, lines 3-11.

As to Schwendt, Schwendt does not remedy the deficiencies of GB '659. Thus, claim 1 is allowable over GB '659 and Schwendt. Dependent claims 2-4 and 7-9 are allowable at least for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Therefore, the §103 rejections should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION


For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

EVEREST INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP

Date: June 9, 2006

BY


Michael S. Leonard, Reg. No. 37,557
P.O. Box 708
Northbrook, IL 60065
Phone: (847) 272-3400